

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-13, 15, 16 and 18-22 are pending. By this response, claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 20-22 are amended. Claims 4, 7, 14, and 17 have been cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-13, 15, 16, and 18-22 as being allowed over the prior art pending correction of minor informalities. Applicants note that the amendments to the claims have been made to address the minor informalities thus placing these claims in condition for allowance.

The Office Action objects to claims 3, 5, 6, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, and 22 due to informalities. As noted above, these claims have been amended in order to address these minor informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 4, 7, 14, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants note that claims 4, 7, 14, and 17 have been cancelled. Accordingly, rejection of the claims is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.


In view of the amendments to address the informalities of the allowed claims and the cancellation of the rejected claims, the application is now in condition for allowance. A favorable and prompt allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings, (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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